

# Can You Get Out, *or* Is Your Route Blocked?

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**E**scape scuttles are installed in flush hatches in flight decks, cargo decks, hangar decks, passageways, and other high-traffic areas where a flush deck is needed to eliminate tripping hazards or to maintain a smooth trucking surface. You also can find flush, 25-inch-diameter scuttles in bulkheads to provide emergency-egress routes.

Never block escape scuttles, and they never should be locked so you can't open them from the inside. Each scuttle also must have a label plate installed on the top. The plate will have one-inch, red letters and read, "Warning—Escape Scuttle—Do Not Obstruct or Block."

Walk along your escape route and remove anything that is—or in an emergency could be—blocking the scuttle. Do it before a mishap report lists you as the Sailor who couldn't escape from a space because of a blocked escape scuttle. ⚠

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## **For more info:**

Refer to NSTM Chapter 600, GSO 602J,  
and OpNavInst. 5100.19D, Paragraph C0102g.

